

FRI MAR 14 1986

Skyline coach steps down; Logan romps

By Monte Poole
The Tribune

BASKETBALL

It may have been De La Salle coach Steve Coccimiglio's finest hour-and-a-half, and Skyline coach Fred Noel admitted helping him achieve it.

With a brilliantly conceived game plan, executed even better

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than he might have ever dreamed, Coccimiglio's Spartans knocked off Skyline, 58-54, in first-round action of the CIF Northern California playoffs at the Coliseum Arena last night.

Using his timeouts wonderfully, substituting for every situation and providing flawless direction from the bench, Coccimiglio put the Spartans into tonight's semifinal round against defending NorCal champion James Logan. The Colts were 77-56 upset winners over top-seeded Merced in the second game of last night's double-header.

For Noel, it was his last game on the bench. When he took over last year, he said he'd coach just two years and he will stick to it.

DLS led from the start, behind magnificent first-half shooting (15-for-21, 71.4 percent) and the stubborn refusal to allow the ball inside to Skyline center Greg Foster.

Forward Ken Shearmire lit the fuse to this celebration with 12 first-quarter points on 5-for-7 shooting. The 6-5 senior wound up with team-highs in points (16) and rebounds (10).

"The key was getting the good start," Coccimiglio said. "We needed to get ahead, and Kenny came through with five big ones."

Perhaps just as important was De La Salle's inner defense and its ability to keep the 6-foot-10 Foster off the boards.

"Jason Ricks did the job," Coccimiglio said of his 6-6, 215-pound center. "Every time a shot went up, Jason put his rear right on Greg's thigh — or maybe it was his knee."

Scoring mostly on short jump-

ers, Foster went 9-for-9 from the field. He added three free throws for a game-high 21 points. As hot as Foster was, the Titans needed to get the ball in his hands more often, something that Noel couldn't find a way to do. Thus, Noel's first contribution to the loss that ended the Titans season at 19-5.

The other, which he readily acknowledged, was leaving Gary Payton in after the mercurial guard had picked up his fourth foul with 7:49 left in the game. Skyline was trailing, 46-39.

"I gotta second-guess myself with Gary," Noel said. "I left him in there and maybe I

shouldn't have. But in the past he's been able to play with four fouls."

Not this time. Sixty-eight seconds after getting No. 4, Payton reached in on a dribbling Mike Vontoure and the whistle blew, signalling his departure from the game and the end of his high-school career. He finished with 10 points.

That forced the Titans, trailing, 48-41, to go to Foster. He responded well against a sagging defense, with 4-for-4 shooting in the final quarter. His jumper with 2:24 left brought Skyline back within four, 53-49. When Brent Merritt followed with a jumper, narrowing the gap to two, Coccimiglio called time.

One of the things discussed during that break was the need for someone to take over. Vontoure, the senior point guard, had fouled out and Skyline's defense was still wary of Shearmire.

Enter forward Eric Dinaburg. The impetuous senior went straight to the basket, driving around Foster — whose foul shot had closed it to 53-52 — for a layup, giving the Spartans a three-point cushion.

James Logan 77, Merced 56

David Parker scored a game-high 24 points on 10-for-14 shooting as the Colts sent the top-seeded Bears packing after one night.

Logan fended off a strong comeback by the Bears, who trailed throughout the game but closed to 54-49 with 5:50 to go.

But the Colts ended matters with a 9-0 run — including two of Pearson's patented driving layups — to take a 63-49 lead with 4:05 to go.

The key to the win was Logan's fullcourt press, which harassed Merced into 23 turnovers.

Gerald Madkins, Merced's highly regarded junior center, wound up with a team-high 22 points on 9-for-12 shooting.

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Dragons beat Logan for spot in State tourney

By Monte Poole **BASKETBALL**
The Tribune

Boston Celtics coach K.C. Jones would have loved this one.

He would have loved the way the Bishop O'Dowd Dragons handled the speed and the trapping defense of James Logan in a 62-48 victory over the Colts in the CIF Northern California Division I championship game last night.

With the win O'Dowd gains entrance into next Saturday's state championships, where it will meet the winner of the Crenshaw-Mater Dei game played late last night in Los Angeles.

Jones would have loved it because his Celtics, a large-scale version of the Dragons complete with pride and tradition, are expected to see a similar game from the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA championship final. A case of what's good for BOD being good for the Celtics.

But O'Dowd coach Mike Phelps loved it for quite a different reason, beyond the fact that his NorCal champions represent perhaps his greatest coaching achievement.

This was supposed to be a year of molding a raw team into something special for next season. Only two of the Dragons entered this season with varsity experience.

"It always feels good when you're not supposed to win," Phelps said. "We weren't even supposed to be here. De La Salle was supposed to win the (Catholic Athletic) league."

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"But these guys wouldn't quit. Another thing that makes it so satisfying is that somebody different was doing it each time out."

Last night's difference was point guard Matt Muehlebach. Facing pressure from all sides, the 6-foot-3 junior passed for five assists, committed just two turnovers in 28 minutes and repeatedly broke Logan's press.

"We played them twice in summer league, so I knew what their press was like," Muehlebach said. "This time, since we didn't have a chance to practice (the Dragons played in a semi-final game Friday night) I just had to mentally prepare for them."

Muehlebach was hounded by a platoon of Logan guards, primarily led by Bill Brown and Mike Pearson. But he shook the pressure time and again, crossing the mid-court stripe and working the ball inside from there.

"We came out flat and that always hurts," said Pearson, who tied with Rich Blythe for team scoring honors, each with 12 points. Freshman center Chris Scott added 11 points and a team-high seven rebounds.

"We had a good season," Pearson said. "We came in (the Nor-Cal tournament) as an at-large team and ended up playing in the championship game."

Logan was hurt by its inability to get shots to drop (23-of-54, 43 percent) and by Muehlebach's ability to cut through its press.

The ultimate recipient of most of Muehlebach's and fellow guard Carlos Perry's machinations was center Phil Palmer.

"We wanted to get the ball inside, just like we always like to do," Palmer said. "We saw how (DLS center) Jason Ricks scored 29 against them last week, so we figured we'd be able to get the ball inside."

"We weren't too worried about their press because we've got Matt. He broke the press every time. I have to thank him. Because of the way we worked the ball most of my points (a team-high 18) came on layups."

The first half was all O'Dowd.

Dragons took a 34-24 lead into the locker room.

They did it on 13-of-24 shooting, which isn't hard to do when you take but one shot beyond 12 feet.

They also did it by refusing to knuckle under Logan's continuous pressure machine. Rather than falling apart, the Dragons looked more like Sunday picnickers fighting off gnats — a nuisance, but hardly enough to make you pack the tent and leave.

While the Colts were applying full-court pressure, the O'Dowd point guard (usually Muehlebach) zigzagged his way up court with little more than a furrowed brow.

With all the commotion, all the harassing going on, the Dragons remained steely-eyed and pressure-proof, with only two first-half turnovers.

Logan turned the ball over nine times, nullifying good shooting (11-of-21) and a 12-12 standoff on the boards.

The Dragons started effectively, working the ball inside and using a continuous motion offense when Logan pressured on defense.

It was apparent early that the Colts were going to have problems with O'Dowd's height and strength within the paint.

In taking an 18-10 first-quarter lead, O'Dowd jumped off in its usual fashion, getting its first five baskets from five different players. All of the Dragons' first-quarter hoops came from within 10 feet.

Welch led the Dragons at the half, with nine points (3-of-4 field goals, 3-of-3 from the line). Blythe led Logan with eight points.

Aptos snaps Mt. E

SUN MAR 16 1986

By Eldredge McCready
The Tribune

To be or not to be NorCal Division II basketball champions? That was the question facing Mt. Eden last night at the Coliseum.

Aptos provided the answer with a record-breaking performance.

CIF

Guard Jeff Jones scored 33 points, 6-foot-5 forward Warren Holt added 20 points and grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds and 6-5 Chris Warmerdon blocked 13 shots as the Mariners stunned the Monarchs 75-71 to take the title.

"If we had to do it again, we'd go at him 20 more times," said Mt. Eden coach Ron Benevides, who added the absence of reserve center Kerry Walker hurt the Monarchs. The 6-4 Walker did not play after suffering what was thought to be a heart attack earlier this week, although he had been cleared by a doctor.

Like Hamlet, Mt. Eden succumbed on the Ides of March and failed to become king.

Mt. Eden used its press to force 29 Aptos turnovers, but the Monarchs' tragic flaw was missing outside shots and having its inside shots consistently rejected by Warmerdam, the sophomore son of coach Bill Warmerdam.

The taller Mariners and Warmerdam controlled the middle and Mt. Eden hit on only 36.8 percent of its field goal attempts.

"They got off their feet pretty quick and had good timing," said Mt. Eden guard Pat Watson, who topped the Monarchs with 22 points. But Watson had early trouble hitting the outside shot.

With Jones scoring 18 first-half points, Aptos led by as much as 10 points in the first half, before settling for a 34-27 halftime lead.

"We were talking before the game about not getting embarrassed," said coach Warmerdam. "At halftime, I told them that even if Mt. Eden came out and blew our shorts off, we wouldn't be embarrassed."

Aptos took its time in trying to break the Mt. Eden press and even used one of its own to force 20 Monarch turnovers. The Mariners also refused to let Mt. Eden

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get off its trademark spurt.

"They took their time and didn't give in as easily as we thought they would," said Mt. Eden forward David Smith, who scored 13 points. "We had our chances, but things didn't roll in for us today."

Smith hit a free throw with 6:08 remaining to give Mt. Eden a 56-55 lead, its first lead since the first quarter.

Holt then barely avoided the Monarch and threw a desperate pass to teammate Bob Bugalski, who relayed the ball to Warren's brother Chris. Chris Holt, who scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half, buried a 15-foot jump shot to give Aptos a 57-56 lead and Smith was called for fouling Warren Holt away from the ball on the play.

Holt sank two free throws for a four-point swing and a 59-56 Mariner lead.

Mt. Eden pulled close several times. Trailing 71-64 with less than a minute to play, the Monarchs pulled to 72-69 on a layup by Watson with 11 seconds to play. But guard Allen Martinez was called for a technical foul for reaching across the end line and interfering with the ball on the inbounds play. Holt hit the technical foul and a steal and layup by Watson with two ticks left put it at 73-71.

The Monarchs fouled Jones on the inbounds play and he hit two free throws for the final score.

The 33-1 Mariners not only broke the win streak and hearts of the Monarchs, but several NorCal tournament records as well. The combined 146 points was a new Division II mark.

Aptos tied the Division II record for points, rebounds (44) and most free throws attempted (25).

With a 31-game win streak of

its own, Aptos will play in the Division II State Championship at 4:30 p.m. next Saturday at the Coliseum. The Mariners will meet Wilson of Hacienda Heights.

BASKETBALL

CIF Championships

At Oakland Coliseum Arena

STATE

DIVISION I BOYS

Crenshaw 70, O'Dowd 69

CRENSHAW

Caldwell 10-19 0-2 20, Brown 2-4 2-4 6, Able 0-2 0-0 0, Batiste 3-15 6-6 12, Thompson 8-16 3-4 19, Freeman 5-9 0-0 10, Myricks 0-0 1-2 1, Meekins 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 28-65 14-20 70.

BISHOP O'DOWD

Fisher 2-2 2-3 6, Welch 2-2 5-7 9, Palmer 6-12 6-12 18, Perry 0-6 0-0 0, Muehlebach 6-10 2-3 14, Nicholas 2-4 2-2 6, Jackson 4-8 2-4 10, Dutton 3-3 0-2 6, Thompson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-49 19-22 69.

Crenshaw	6	22	21	21-70
Bishop O'Dowd	18	15	13	23-69

Fouled out—Brown. Total fouls—Crenshaw 22, O'Dowd 16. Technicals—Brown. A—14,300.

DIVISION I GIRLS

Point Loma 56, Grant 50

POINT LOMA

Collum 9-17 3-4 21, Mann 5-12 3-4 13, Benton 1-4 0-1 2, McCoy 9-16 2-6 20, Carillo 0-1 0-1 0. Totals 24-50 8-16 56.

GRANT

Wilson 1-9 1-2 3, Ellis 2-3 1-2 5, Anderson 6-12 2-7 14, Irby 2-7 0-0 4, Tamela Green 5-17 2-2 12, Scott 1-4 0-0 2, Belton 1-3 0-0 2, McCall 1-6 0-0 2, Hicks 0-0 2-2 2, Tesia Green 2-9 0-1 4. Totals 21-70 8-16 50.

Point Loma	13	11	17	15-56
Grant	14	10	13	13-50

Fouled out: None. Total fouls: Point Loma 13, Grant 14.

DIVISION II BOYS

Wilson 72, Aptos 46

WILSON

Daniels 4-7 2-5 10, Weingarten 4-6 4-4 12, Williams 8-14 6-11 22, Owens 4-8 0-2 4, Barrisa 2-5 4-5 8, Delsi 2-2 0-1 4, Blizzard 1-1 0-0 2, Mackey 0-1 0-0 0, Murray 1-1 2-3 4, Miner 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 26-45 20-33 72.

APTOS

W. Holt 3-14 6-8 12, Warmerdan 1-7 0-0 2, Sloane 1-4 0-0 2, Jones 6-18 0-0 12, E. Knudsen 2-5 3-3 7, Bugalski 0-0 3-5 3, C. Holt 0-6 0-1 0, K. Knudsen 1-2 0-0 2, Castillo 1-1 0-1 2, Smith 1-3 0-2 2, Fisher 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 17-62 12-20 46.

Wilson	18	19	15	20-72
Aptos	9	15	8	14-46

Fouled out—W. Holt, Jones. Total fouls—Hacienda Hgts 16, Aptos 27. Technicals—Hacienda Coach Lowe.

DIVISION II GIRLS

Novato 72, Chino 65

CHINO

Dykstra 1-11 0-2 2, Moons 6-14 1-2 13, Plummer 3-5 0-2 6, Echevarria 14-23 6-14 34, Jones 2-5 0-0 4, Watts 2-3 0-2 4, Murillo 1-1 0-0 2, Meanor 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 29-62 7-22 65.

NOVATO

Aman 0-2 0-0 0, Weber 0-1 0-0 0, Colclough 4-5 1-2 9, French 10-15 2-2 22, Lucas 16-22 0-3 32, Stromberg 2-4 5-6 9, Gay 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 32-51 8-13 72.

Chino	13	15	18	21-65
Novato	20	15	17	20-72

Fouled out—none. Total fouls—Chino 12, Novato 13.

DIVISION III BOYS

Vanden 68, Crossroads 63

CROSSROADS

Carson 1-3 0-1 2, Brown 6-10 1-1 13, Wolfe 8-14 0-0 16, Davis 6-13 0-2 12, Rudolph 5-11 2-4 12, Bailey 2-7 0-1 4, Stevens 1-7 0-0 2, Pasco 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 30-66 3-9 63.

VANDEN

Hall 10-21 9-10 29, Pruitt 1-2 0-1 2, Casner 6-9 4-5 16, Davis 2-9 0-0 4, Lemelle 3-8 0-1 6, Crittenden 5-8 1-3 11, Russell 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 27-58 14-20 68.

Crossroads	20	17	12	14-63
Vanden	16	24	14	14-68

Fouled out—Rudolph, Crittensen. Total fouls—Crossroads 19, Vanden 15. Technical—Wolfe.